

a glittering sky and a hot sun over
scorched, glaring
yellow soil, a measure of greenness just
round the tent
is most refreshing to eyes which are
suffering from the
want of the coloured glasses which were
ground under a
yabu's hoofs a fortnight ago.

The Khan of the village was very
courteous, and
sent a tray of splendid grapes, and six
watchmen.

Buffalo bulls of very large size were used
there for
burden. Buffaloes are a sure sign of
mitigated aridity,
for they must bathe, *i.e.* lie down in water
three times
daily, if they are to be kept in health, and if
the water
and mud are not deep enough for this, boys
go in along
with them and pour water over them with a
pannikin.

In these regions they are almost exclusively
used for
burdens, draught, and milk, and
everywhere their
curved flat horns and sweet, calm, silly faces
are to be
seen above the water of the deep irrigation
ditches. The
buffalo, though usually mild enough to be
driven by small
children, has an uncertain temper, and can be
roused to
frightful ferocity. In Persian Kurdistan, if
not else-
where, this is taken advantage of, and in the
spring, when
the animals are in good condition after the
winter's rest,
the people have buffalo fights, in which cruel
injuries
would be inflicted *were it not for the
merciful provision
of nature in giving these animals flat
incurved horns.¹

As I sat at my tent door a cloud of dust
moved along
the road towards the village, escorting an
indefinite
something which loomed monstrously

through it. I have
not seen a cart for nine months, and till the
unmistak-

¹ While I was sleeping in a buffalo • stable in Turkey
two buffaloes
quarrelled and there was a terrible fight, in which the
huge animals inter-
locked their horns and broke them short off, bellowing
fearfully. It took
twenty men with ropes, or rather cables, two and a half
inches in diameter,
which are kept for the purpose, to separate them ; and
their thin skins,
sensitive to insect bites and all irritations, were bleeding in
every direction
before they could be forced apart.